

LAON BURNING AS ALLIES CLOSE IN;
KAISER'S PEACE OFFER CONSIDERED

Keystone of the German Defenses on the Western Front Seems About to be Evacuated as the Fires Are Burning Over Wide Area

GERMANS ARE RETREATING
OVER TWO WIDE FRONTS

Despite Kaiser's Proposal to Secure Peace, His Armies Are Setting Fire to Town After Town in Territory Being Surrendered

Paris, Oct. 7.—Laon, the stronghold to which the enemy has been clinging as the keypoint of his line on the southwest, apparently has been set on fire by the Germans. The town was reported ablaze yesterday, and fires were still burning there to-day.

Rheims has been finally and definitely cleared from the menace of German cannon. The Germans are in retreat on the whole front from the Suippe to the Arnes, as well as in the region south of Cambrai.

In the first named sector the allies have reached the Aisne river on which the enemy hoped to make a stand. In the second region the British fourth army has crushed counter attacks which the enemy delivered in an effort to prevent its progress toward Bohain and cover their retreat to the south.

These movements of retreat form a part of a plan which was to have brought the German armies to new lines of resistance much nearer the frontier, it appears, but the constant pressure of the allied troops is making the execution of the plan most difficult and hazardous.

The peace proposals of the central powers are in no way interfering with the policy of destruction the German staff seems to have decided upon. Salammes, near Lens, is burning and fires have been seen west and southwest of Lille and between Douai and Soisson.

The troops advancing in the Champagne found Nogent-L'Aube, Reims and all the villages in the valley of the Suippe in flames. Laon has been ablaze since yesterday, indicating the enemy may be about to leave that region, as the Chemin des Dames, already turned by Maingin on the west, now has been turned on the east by the troops who have crossed the Aisne at several points in the vicinity of Berry-au-Bac, making it appear that the Laonnois area no longer is tenable.

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BIG APPROPRIATION

Set Aside for Red Cross Work in the British Isles.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—Nearly nine million dollars has been appropriated by the American Red Cross for war work in the British Isles for the period from last October to the end of this year. This was disclosed to-day by the war council's latest report on the disposition of the war fund.

Brigading of American troops with the British resulted in an enormous increase in the number of American troops on British soil, necessitating the creation of new camps and the opening of additional hospitals.

Provision has been made for extending prompt relief in the event of the torpedoing of transports carrying American troops to England. The Red Cross has established stations along the Irish coast with stocks of clothing and first aid outfits sufficient to care for 6,000 shipwrecked Americans in the shortest possible time. Contributions made to the British Red Cross and the British ambulance committee had reached a total of more than \$2,100,000 by the end of last June.

GERMAN POLICE HEAD
IN WARSAW KILLED

Was Shot By an Unidentified Person and the Assassin Escaped.

Zurich, Oct. 7.—(Havas).—The chief of the police force in Warsaw, Poland, has been shot by an unidentified person. The assassin fled.

DESTROYED COAL MINE PITS.

Germans Vented Their Rage on Quitting Lens Region.

With the British Army in France, Sunday, Oct. 6 (by the Associated Press).—Many towns have been occupied by the British to-day in their advance after the retreat of the Germans along the sector from Cambrai to Lens. At Abancourt, where the railroad station was occupied by the enemy, the entire garrison was killed.

HUGE WAR PLANTS

Are to Be Constructed by the U. S. Government.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—The war department to-day announced that it had authorized construction of three additional war plants. A trinitrotoluol factory to cost \$1,438,000 is to be erected at Giant, California, and will be operated by the Giant Powder company.

MANY AMERICANS

Were Listed To-day Among Canadian Casualties.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 7.—The following names of New England men appear in to-day's overseas casualty list:

Died of wounds: R. A. Hardy, South Brewer, Maine; H. B. Baker, Pawtucket, R. I.

Wounded: J. E. Tillmore, Hartford, Conn.; W. A. Spinnell, Wrentham, Mass.; T. A. Wilson, Campbell, Mass.; W. Whitely, Limerick, Me.; H. White, East Lynn, Mass.; J. Smith, New Bedford, Mass.; C. A. Freeman, Providence, R. I.; A. Laframboise, Dalton, Mass.; A. M. Beairte, Lowell, Mass.; J. Bell, New Britain, Conn.; J. F. Powers, Worcester, Mass.; Capt. E. M. Slader, Brownville, N. J.; M. G. Brown, Rochester, Mass.; J. G. Perrin, Roxbury, Mass.

SIR ERIC GEDDES ARRIVES.

First Lord of British Admiralty Now in Washington.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, and members of the admiralty board, who arrived at the admiralty port last night, came to Washington to-day for an important series of conferences on the American and allied naval program.

Sir Eric and his party were welcomed by members of the British embassy, Admiral Benson, and other officers and officials of the navy department and representatives of the state and war departments. They were escorted to the British embassy by a detachment of marines.

POSTPONE ANTI-TRUST SUITS.

Upon the Government's Motion in Supreme Court.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—Upon the government's motion, the term of all pending anti-trust suits because of the war, Attorney General Gregory announced to-day that motions to this effect will be formally in the court to-morrow.

MUST QUIT BULGARIA.

Former Allies of That Country Get Formal Notice.

Amsterdam, Oct. 7.—Bulgaria on Saturday notified the powers, with which she had been allied, that they must quit Bulgarian territory within a month, as a Sofia dispatch to the Berlin Tageblatt.

HUNDRED MORE MEN

To Be Sent from Vermont for Full Military Service.

Gov. H. F. Graham to-day received a call for 100 men qualified for full military service to go to Camp Wright, N. Y., during the five-day period following Oct. 21.

NO QUIBBLING
ABOUT PEACE

There Will Be No Negotiations Over Wilson's 14 Points

FLAT ACCEPTANCE
MUST BE MADE

That Is Probably the Position United States Will Take

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—A prompt and decisive reply to Germany's latest peace proposal is indicated by developments in Washington early to-day.

President Wilson cancelled his usual morning recreation hour and remained secluded in his study at work. Prince Maximilian's note was received during the night at the Swiss legation, where arrangements were made to deliver it at once to the state department for transmission to the president.

Quite irrespective of the nature of the reply, it seemed to be agreed that the German note called for a prompt reply so that the American people might not be misled into relaxing their efforts for the fourth Liberty loan, so that the American troops in the field may know at once the position of their government and so that an offer of peace may receive such diplomatic attention as it deserves.

Minister Ekengren of Sweden presented the note from Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, to Secretary Lansing at 10:30 o'clock. He was at the state department only a few minutes.

The Austrian communication is substantially similar to that from Germany and both ask President Wilson to arrange an armistice and for peace negotiations on conditions previously laid down by the president. It is said neither of the official texts differs materially from the version published in press dispatches.

Official announcements of the attitude of the United States government still were being withheld, but there was no abatement of the indication that if Germany seeks "negotiations" leading to round table conferences and diplomatic quibblings, the offer will fall flat.

If she actually accepts without qualification the principles of peace as repeatedly laid down by President Wilson and accepted by all the co-belligerents, the way is open to peace, with the withdrawal of all German troops from invaded territory as the first requirement.

Secretary Lansing said there could be no comment on the Austrian proposal until that of Germany also had been received.

Republican Leader Lodge, ranking minority member of the foreign relations committee, declared an armistice "would mean the loss of the war and all we have fought for."

Germany, he said, now merely proposes a long debate on the basis of peace, and accepted by all the co-belligerents, the way is open to peace, with the withdrawal of all German troops from invaded territory as the first requirement.

SENATORS DISCUSS
PEACE PROPOSAL

Pointexter Declared Proposal for Armistice a "Most Insidious Danger."

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—Discussion of Germany's peace offer began in the Senate soon after to-day's session convened. Senator Pointexter of Washington, Republican, declared the proposal for an armistice a "most insidious danger."

When Senator Pointexter declared an armistice would mean the end of all military action and, if accompanied only by the evacuation of Belgium and France, would be a victory for Germany, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, chairman of the foreign relations committee, earnestly pointed out that the German offer also provides for acceptance of the 14 terms laid down by the president in his address of Jan. 8.

Acceptance of Germany's offer only upon evacuation of Belgium and France, Senator Hitchcock said, would be preposterous, but he declared restoration of Alsace-Lorraine to France, as well as reparation for Belgium and France, are among the president's terms, which Germany proposes to accept.

Senator McCumber of North Dakota announced that he had proposed a resolution designed to insure preservation of the functions of the Senate.

GERMANY MAY BE
SPARRING FOR TIME

Or She May Be Trying to Affect the Success of the Fourth Liberty Loan.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—The newest peace proposal of the German government, as quoted in dispatches from Amsterdam, differed from the proposition emanating from Vienna in tone and in

AMERICANS
FORGE AHEAD

Captured Terrain Between The Meuse and Bois Des Agons

REPORTS PERSHING
TO WASHINGTON

Advance Was Made in Spite of Heavy Resistance.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 7.—Slight advances yesterday by the American forces between the Meuse and the Bois des Agons in heavy infantry fighting was reported to-day by General Pershing.

He also reported increased artillery activity everywhere on both sides.

A communique for Sunday, adding to one received last night, reached the war department to-day, as follows:

"Our troops have made slight advances during the day. Between the Meuse and the Bois des Agons, there has been stubborn infantry fighting. Farther west machine gun and artillery combats were constant and heavy with increased artillery activity by both sides everywhere."

FIRE BROKE OUT
NEAR T N T PLANT

Rock Island, Ill., Fire Department on Strike, But Every Effort Is Being Made to Check the Flames in Arsenal.

Rock Island, Ill., Oct. 7.—Fire of unknown origin broke out at the Walsh Construction company camp at the Rock Island arsenal this morning. The camp is situated near the big T N T plant at the arsenal and every effort is being made to prevent its spread. The city fire department is on strike.

wording, but not in substance. Both governments accept President Wilson's principles, not as a basis of peace, but simply as that of negotiations.

In advance of the arrival of the notes through the Swiss legation, no statement as to how the enemy proposals were regarded by the United States was to be expected. On their face, however, the offers do not meet the requirements laid down by President Wilson and the spokesmen for the entente governments.

In the opinion here, Germany eventually will make a peace offer worth considering. That the war may not be prolonged unnecessarily, no proposals from the enemy are to be rejected without examination.

This is Germany's first formal offer of peace. It was noted that it was made to the president, with a request that he invite America's associates in the war to send plenipotentiaries for the purpose of opening negotiations. Attention also was directed to the fact that throughout the note the term "the German government" was used, with the "imperial" omitted. This copy of the note, however, was not the official one.

In the general discussion of the proposal two thoughts were voiced in many quarters. One was that Germany might be sparing for time and winter to aid her battered army, and the other that the German effort coming at this time might have been intended to affect the fourth Liberty loan campaign by leading many people in America to believe the end of the war is near.

GERMANY COULD AID PEACE.

By Clearing Out of France and Belgium, Says George N. Barnes.

London, Oct. 7.—Germany, in her latest peace offer, seems anxious to save her own skin even at the expense of her allies, said George Nicol Barnes, member of the war cabinet, in a speech at Derby last night. The latest offer showed no change of heart and no change in the German system. The peace proposal only indicated the Germans realized the change in the military situation and the shifting of the balance of power.

"If anything could come of the overtures," he said, "we should be foolish to deny ourselves that chance. But it would smooth and facilitate the path to peace if the Germans showed some evidence of work following their proposition of faith. By clearing out of France and Belgium they could save their own souls."

ARMY FAVORED PEACE MOVE.

And Even Recommended It to German Government.

Berne, Oct. (Havas).—The German government took its latest peace step upon the advice and with approval of the high command of the army, says the Stuttgart Neues Tagblatt. Germany, the newspaper adds, has decided to consent to very heavy sacrifices.

AUSTRIA INSISTED TO VATICAN.

That Another Effort for Peace Be Made.

Paris, Oct. 7.—Austria-Hungary recently again insisted that the Vatican undertake steps toward peace, according to a Havas dispatch from Vienna. The Vatican, it is added, reported the demand.

PRIVATE WILLIAM J. McDONALD.
Employee in Times Office Passed Away at Camp Colt.

Private William J. McDonald, until recently a compositor in The Times office, died at 9:28 o'clock Friday night in Camp Colt, Gettysburg, Pa., according to word received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James McDonald of 67 John street. Death followed an attack of lobar pneumonia.

The deceased was born in Barre Dec. 14, 1880, and after attending the public schools he began his apprenticeship in the composing room of The Times. Besides his father and mother, he leaves three brothers, Thomas McDonald of Nashua, N. H., Robert McDonald of Camp Hollabird, Md., George McDonald, and a sister, Miss Nellie McDonald. The body will arrive in this city late to-night, it is expected, and funeral arrangements are to be made later.

The young man self-inducted in the mechanics' contingent July 15, and after training in Burlington left Sept. 12 for Camp Colt. He was a member of the First Presbyterian church and also belonged to Clan Gordon, No. 12, and the local branch of the International Typographical union. By his co-workers in The Times office he was highly esteemed, and his unexpected demise is deeply mourned.

PRIVATE HARRY J. HILL.

South Barre Man Died at Camp Colt, Penn.

Private Harry J. Hill of South Barre, son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Hill, died at Camp Colt, Gettysburg, Pa., Friday of grip and pneumonia. It is supposed by his parents, and the body is now on the way to his home. Mr. and Mrs. Hill got a message Friday night telling of his death. They had previously received word that he was ill.

Private Hill was born in Worcester 27 years ago and besides his parents he leaves one sister, Mrs. Harold Seaver of Northfield. Prior to enlisting in the mechanical division of the United States service he was engaged for five years in business with his father.

GRANITE INDUSTRY
GETS MODIFICATION

Of the Fuel Order, According to Statement from Gov. Graham's Office.

A statement from Gov. Graham's office this afternoon said that Governor Graham has just returned from Washington, where he conferred with the war industries board with the result that it is probable a modification of the recent ruling will be made so that the granite industry will benefit under the fuel order. It is expected that there will be no necessity for closing down the industry.

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION

Of Newberry's Campaign Expenditures in Michigan.

New York, Oct. 7.—An inquiry ordered by the federal court into expenditures incident to the primary campaign of Commander Truman H. Newberry, U. S. N., successful candidate for the Republican senatorial nomination in Michigan, is to take the form of a grand jury investigation, it was learned here to-day.

Supposals issued in the name of Judge Learned Hand were served on former Governor Chase S. Osborn and William G. Simpson, defeated candidates for the nomination; Lieutenant Governor Luren D. Dickinson, and other leading Republicans of Michigan.

The investigation was begun at the instance of Commander Newberry to "determine whether certain charges of moral turpitude against an officer of the navy are justified." It is being held in this city to convenience Commander Newberry, who is stationed here.

DON'T TELEPHONE!

Unless It Is Absolutely Necessary to Do So.

Again an imperative request must be made to the people having telephones to refrain from making unnecessary calls. There are now but four girls left in the telephone office and it is impossible for them to answer the necessary calls, let alone those that are unnecessary. Therefore, it is urgently requested that people desist from using the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary.

SITUATION BETTER

As Regards New York's Influenza Outbreak.

New York, Oct. 7.—A decrease of 485 in the number of influenza cases reported for the 24 hours ending at 10 a. m. as compared with a previous similar period was announced here to-day by Dr. Royal S. Copeland, health commissioner. The number of new cases totaled 1,588.

MRS. JOHN GREGWARE.

Died at Her Home on South Main Street To-day.

Mrs. John Gregware died at her home, 61 South Main street, early to-day, after a week's illness. She leaves her husband, The deceased was around 28 years old and a daughter of Daniel Webster.

MRS. JOSEPH CAMPO.

Was in Declining Health When Stricken with Grip.

The death of Mrs. Joseph Campo occurred Sunday evening at her home, 369 1/2 North Main street. The deceased had been ill but a few days, although she was in declining health when she was stricken with the grip last week. Mrs. Campo leaves her husband and two sons and a daughter. Two brothers and a sister live in Waterbury, Conn. She was born in Italy 36 years ago, and had been a resident of this city for the past four years.

SPECIAL TRAIN
BRINGS HELP

More Doctors and Nurses Brought to Washington County

TO STEM SPREAD
OF THE INFLUENZA

About 30 Deaths Reported in Barre for the Past 48 Hours

A rising 30 deaths followed the latest onslaught of the grip and pneumonia in Barre, nearly 30 deaths have been reported since Saturday night. Measured by the number of those who have succumbed to the plague, the outlook is not altogether encouraging, but the outbreak of new cases has been appreciably decreased, and many of those who were desperately ill are reported to be recovering from the disease. Five persons who were being treated for pneumonia at the city hospital have been discharged as cured. Many patients are receiving beneficial treatment at the hospital, and the systematic assignment of doctors and nurses throughout the city has had the effect of improving the lot of many other patients.

Those who are nearest in the observations of the pestilence are taking an optimistic view of the situation. Beyond a doubt the number of new cases is steadily decreasing, and the inauguration of a plan where every new case is visited regularly by a physician and attended at intervals, if not all the time, by a nurse, is expected to bring satisfactory results. To-day and yesterday the calls for help received at the headquarters of the special relief committee at city hall were far less than on Saturday. To-day a special train which started from Burlington brought many additional doctors into Washington county. The grip is endemic, and more were assigned to duty in Montpelier, while a considerable number were assigned in Barre. Among the Burlington and other out-of-town doctors working here to-day were: Drs. Beecher, Smith, Baylies, Couture, Miller, Sablin, Dodd, Pache, Tanner, Daigle, Wilder and Melnick.

Yesterday, the relief committee, acting on a cue taken from the daily newspapers, in which it was said that army doctors were available for stricken communities, wired Boston for a number of medical officers. Relief from this source is expected.

"There is urgent need of Italian and Spanish interpreters at the city hospital, where the work may be materially furthered if the wants of the patients can be understood. To-day prominent members of the Barre Italian colony issued the following statement:

"Alla Colonia Italiana e Spagnuola, si cercano una decina di uomini per aiutare i nostri compatrioti gravemente ammalati all'ospedale della città. Nessun uomo di cuore può rifiutarsi di dare un'occhiata di servizio onde alleviare le sofferenze dei nostri poveri fratelli colpiti da questo flagello tutto le altre nazionalità fanno tutto quello che possono, ed il sentimento dei noi Italiani e Spagnuoli siamo i soli che non cerchiamo di alleviare le sofferenze dei nostri fratelli e una calunnia che dovremmo cercare di non meritare. Uomini e giovani di cuore, rispondete a questo appello col recarvi al più presto possibile direttamente all'ospedale per dare qualche ora di servizio onde alleviare le sofferenze dei nostri fratelli ammalati. Nessuno si rifiuti."

Among the dead reported since Saturday are: John Albano of 4 Oswald street; Mrs. David Bombro of 135 North Seminary street; Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calderara of 55 Circle street; Mrs. John Walker of Central street; Mrs. John Pilon of Lawrence avenue; Mrs. John Gregware of 61 South Main street; Ercole Puntelli of the B. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Campo of North Main street; Mrs. Ralph Nelson of Merchant street; O. Caradelli of 7 Foss street; Mrs. Peter Griffin of North Main street; Mrs. Theodore Desautel of 27 Center street; Angelo Guidali of 535 North Main street; Micheli Calegari of 101 Smith street; two men, as yet unidentified; Harry Blow of Washington street; Alva Littel of Beckley street; Mrs. Alex. Daniels of North Main street; Ray Field of the G. Tomas block; Mrs. Joseph Calder